

Serial No. 09/944,150

Attorney Docket No. 12-006

REMARKS

Claims 20, 23, 24 and 26 are pending. Claims 1-19, 21-22, 25 and 27-32 have been canceled. Claims 24 and 26 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The office action indicates that claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate allowable claim 32, and claim 32 is canceled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 20 as amended is allowable, together with claims 23, 24 and 26 which depend therefrom.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 27 has been rejected. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot.

Claims 20, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,852,108, Yamanaka et al. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate claim 32, which the office action indicates would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that this rejection also is moot.

Claim 20 should now be in condition for allowance. The applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn claims 24 and 26, which depend from claim 20. Because claims 24 and 26 include all of the limitations of claim 20, claims 24 and 26 should be rejoined and allowed.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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